

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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30 ENDANGERED SPECIES CANDIDATES ARE NOT IN TROUBLE AS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

Thirty native plants and animals which have been under review as candidates for the endangered or threatened species lists are being removed from further consideration, primarily because evidence received from the public indicates they are more common than previously thought.

The announcement was made by Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Endangered" means that a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened," a less dire status, means that a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

The species and subspecies occur throughout the Nation and were originally placed under review at various times over the last four years. They include 3 plants, 2 freshwater sponges, 3 snails, 18 butterflies, a turtle, a salamander, and 2 snakes.

During the last four years, the Fish and Wildlife Service has published a number of notices of review indicating that there were sufficient data then available to warrant a review of various animals and plants to determine whether they should be listed. During this period, two plants were proposed as endangered which are no longer considered as candidates for listing. These public notices requested comments and data from knowledgeable persons about the biological status and range of these species. On the basis of data submitted from individuals, universities, States, and organizations, these species have been found not to warrant further consideration as candidates for listing.

"The reasons for not considering these species further are varied, but most center on the fact that they are more common than originally believed or do not appear to be facing particular threats to their existence," Schreiner said.

"One, the blue silverspot butterfly, has been found to be extinct in the United States, although common at several sites in Mexico. Since the classification of two species of sponges is in doubt, both were removed from further consideration."

The species and the areas where they are located are as follows:

(over)

PLANTS

Bird's eye primrose
Alaskan rein orchid
Unnamed species of bladderpod

North U.S. and Canada
Alaska
New Mexico, Texas

ANIMALS

Freshwater sponges

Muscular sponge
Spongy sponge

Michigan
South Carolina

Snails

Dented peninsula snail
Nicklin's peninsula snail
Tryon's snail

California
California
California

Butterflies

Catalina orange-tip
Andrews marble
Dina's yellow
Mitchell's satyr
Mead's satyr
Chryxus arctic
Mountain silverspot
Blue silverspot
Unsilvered fritillary
Clemence's fritillary
Tehachapi mountain silverspot
Minute checkerspot
Doudoroff's elfin
Wind's elfin
Bog elfin
Hessel's hairstreak

California
California
Florida
Michigan, Indiana, New Jersey
Colorado
Washington
Arizona, New Mexico
Arizona
California
California
California
Texas
California
California
Maine, New Hampshire
Connecticut, Delaware,
Maryland, New Jersey, New
York, North Carolina,
Virginia
Hawaii
California

Hawaiian hairstreak
Clouded tailed copper

Turtles

Red-bellied turtle

North Carolina, Virginia,
Maryland, Delaware,
New Jersey

Amphibians

Siskiyou mountain salamander

California, Oregon

Reptiles

Desert kingsnake
Gray-banded kingsnake

Arizona, New Mexico, Texas,
Oklahoma
Texas

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